



Forest Action Plan

January 2020

What is Forest Health?

The condition of a forest ecosystem reflecting its ability to sustain characteristic structure, function, and processes; resilience to fire, insects and other disturbance mechanisms; adaptability to changing climate and increased drought stress; and capacity to provide ecosystem services to meet landowner objectives and human needs.



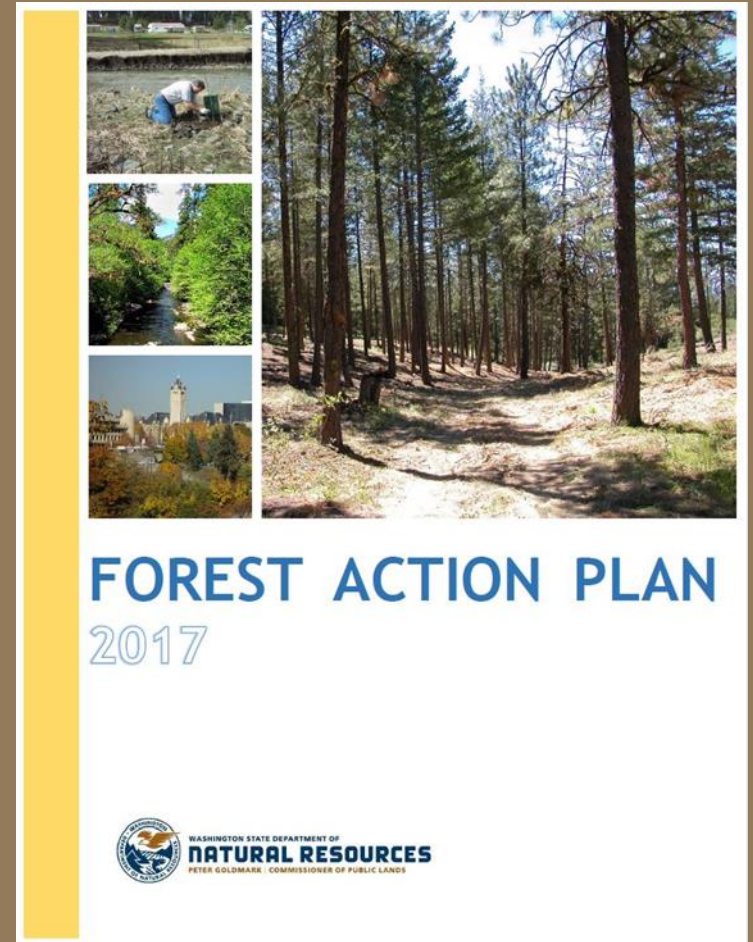
Forest Action Plan

Washington's Forest Action Plan is a comprehensive review of forests across all lands — public, private, rural and urban — that offers proactive solutions to conserve, protect and enhance the trees and forests that people and wildlife depend on.



Forest Action Plan

- Requirement established by Congress in 2008 to maintain eligibility for State and Private Forestry funding.
- Washington State Forest Action Plan released in 2010 and revision published in 2017.
- In FY2018 Washington State DNR received \$12.8M to fund 8 cooperative forestry programs.



Cooperative Forestry Programs

- Community Forestry and Open Space
- Cooperative Lands – Forest Health Management
- Forest Legacy
- Forest Stewardship
- Landscape Scale Restoration
- State Fire Assistance
- Urban and Community Forestry
- Volunteer Fire Assistance



2020 Forest Action Plan

Planning Process Core Tenets

- Develop the plan collaboratively.
- Respect diverse partner interests.
- Utilize peer reviewed science.
- Identify implementable milestones.
- Publish a plan that is user-friendly.



2020 Forest Action Plan

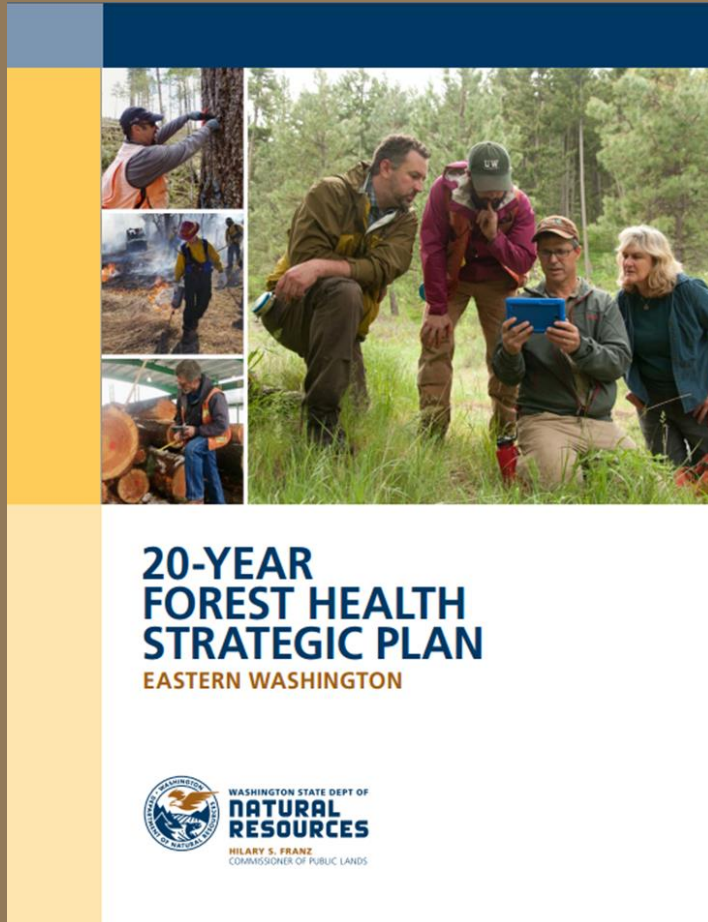
Key Objectives

1. Identify opportunities to align strategies, resources, and investments across DNR programs and with our partners.
2. Reinforce DNR commitment to 10-Year Wildland Fire Protection Strategic Plan and 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan: Eastern Washington.
3. Create the enabling conditions to develop a west-side forest health and resiliency strategic plan.

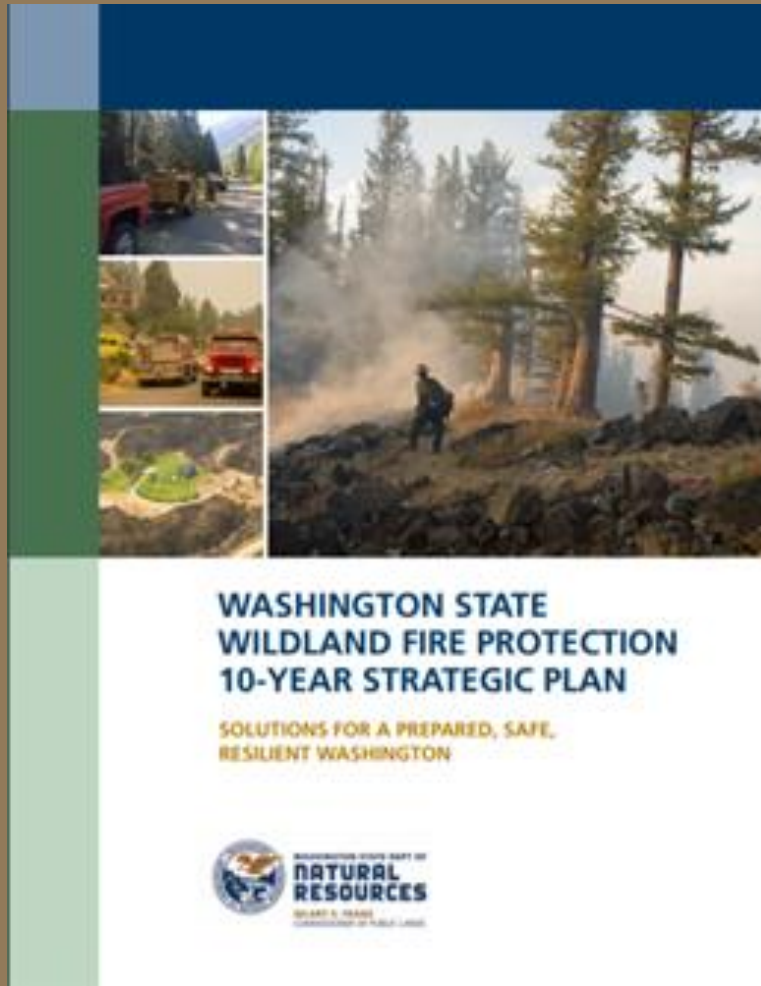


20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan

- 1.25 million acres treated by 2037
- Reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildfire and other disturbances
- Enhance economic development
- Integrate landowner objectives and responsibilities
- Develop and implement a monitoring program



10-Year Wildland Fire Protection Plan



1. Fully capable, integrated and sustainable systems.
2. Resilient landscapes.
3. Communities are prepared & adapted – now and in the future.
4. Response is safe and effective.



Wildland Fire Protection Strategy

VISION:

All Washington—safely managing and living with wildland fire.

Working collaboratively across jurisdictional boundaries and with engaged communities, we safeguard what we value. All of Washington is adapted and prepared, and our landscapes are healthy and resilient. We prevent wildland fire, use fire where allowable, and safely suppress unwanted fire.

GOALS

1. Washington's preparedness, response, and recovery systems are fully capable, integrated, and sustainable.
2. Landscapes are resilient. In the face of wildland fire, they resist damage and recover quickly.
3. Communities are prepared and adapted for current and future fire regimes.
4. Response is safe and effective. There is zero loss of life, of firefighters or the public, from wildland fires.

FOCUS AREAS

- All of Washington
- All landscapes (including smaller, fragmented ownerships and non-forested landscapes)
- Wildland fire risk management and reduction

20-Year Forest Health Strategy

VISION:

The goals and strategies outlined in the plan will reduce wildfire hazards to state trust lands and private forest owners, leverage additional funding, increase confidence for businesses, and accelerate the development of resilient forest ecosystems for the benefit of current and future generations.

GOALS

- Accelerate the pace and scale of Forest Health Treatments.
- Strategically focus work to protect communities and values.
- Promote Rural Economic Development and the use of restoration by-products.
- Respect and integrate diverse landowner objectives.
- Monitor progress and adapt strategies over time to ensure treatment effectiveness.

FOCUS AREAS

- Eastern Washington Forests
- Large, forested landscapes
- Forest health



ALIGNMENT

Both plans:

- Identify and manage wildland fire risk.
- Protect communities and values.
- Maintain resilient landscapes.
- Integrate landowner community objectives and values.
- Recognize the appropriate role of fire on the landscape.

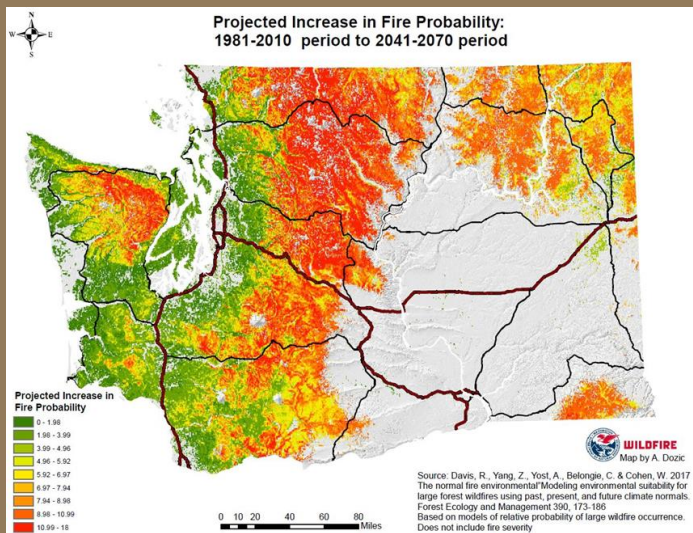


Figure 5. Washington's Forest Health Strategic Plan and Wildland Fire Protection Strategic Plan support and reinforce each other.



Western Washington

- What are the threats facing forests?
- What strategies and actions can the agency and our partners take to more effectively address those threats?
- Who needs to be involved in developing and implementing the west-side forest health and resilience strategy?



Partner Engagement

Public Survey and Direct Outreach

Review and Contributors Team

Technical Panel

Forest Action Plan Webinars

- Feb 26, 2020 @ 12PM
- April 14, 2020 @ 12PM

We want to hear from you!



Survey Results Snapshot

- Survey open October 15 – December 31, 2019. There were 361 responses.
- Wildfire and conversion were identified as most pressing threats facing forests in Washington State.
- 96.7% of respondents believe it is important for DNR to prioritize active restoration of forests such as thinning unnaturally dense stands.
- Low levels of funding for forest conservation was cited as one of the most important issues to be addressed.



Thank you!



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